

these four, but, for the most part, from each other. Dillwyn seems to have been perfectly aware of this confusion, but, generally useful as his catalogue is, a resort to his numerous references in this instance, will soon prove to the student whether he has added to the obscurity or diminished it. It is to be hoped that some one qualified for the task will undertake a monograph of the genus. Lamarck has done a great deal; but a great deal remains to be done.

I am not aware that any one has observed the labial tooth which projects from the external lip of many of the *Murices*. It is very much developed in perfect specimens of *M. radix*, more especially in those which come from Panama. I have seen it also very much exerted in *M. ramosus* and other species. It may be traced at each stage of growth when it is well developed. *M. saxicola* has it, but not so strongly marked as the shells above mentioned. Its use, in our present state of ignorance of the habits of the animal, we are left to conjecture.

ART. XXII. *On a new Genus of Iguanidæ.* By THOMAS BELL, Esq. F.L.S.

THE multitude of new forms which are daily presenting themselves to the observation of the Zoologist, and the consequently improved knowledge we obtain of the affinities by which the various groups of animals are connected, have gone far to establish principles of classification, probably approaching to the grand plan upon which the animated world was created. Still however our knowledge of the natural arrangement must be confessed to be as yet confined to a feeble glimmering of light, the first bright line, as it were, of dawn, but gradually widening and brightening, and rendering the prospect more and more distinct and clear, with every additional ray that is poured upon it. Although therefore numbers of those links which entered into the construction of the original chain of nature, have doubtless been irremediably lost, there is yet reason to anticipate that the

gradually increasing knowledge of those which yet remain, may at length be sufficient to indicate to us the harmony and perfection with which the grand whole was conceived and produced.

It is only however by carefully examining and accurately recording every isolated individual that may be discovered in our researches, that any steps can be taken towards the attainment of this, the grand object of every true Naturalist; and in this point of view every newly discovered species is of importance, especially when appearing in a form differing essentially from any hitherto observed, although its immediate relations may not be at once accurately defined or understood. There are in fact occasionally seen certain deviations from any known groups of animals, and from any forms with which we were before acquainted, which claim even for a single species, a distinct place in our attempts at arrangement: and if this separation be made upon sufficient grounds, and with scientific views, it generally happens that subsequent discoveries, by filling up the hiatus, tend to establish such a distribution. It is with this impression that I feel myself called upon to consider the subject of this paper, as belonging to a separate type in point of structure, from those with which, according to the strict rules, not of Linnæus, but of *Linneuns*, it would have been more closely associated. It is not my intention to occupy a moment in endeavouring to establish the necessity of applying new generic terms to designate those minor groups, or those new and distinct forms, which, in the present state of zoological knowledge, crowd upon us at every step: this has been already so well and so unanswerably done with regard to ornithology by my friend Mr. Vigors, one of the most enlightened zoologists in this country, as to render any farther attempts unnecessary; as the same arguments which he has adduced, in his own favourite department, are equally available in every other. I would only observe, that, if there be in the whole range of Zoological Science one department which requires this kind of reform more than another, it is that to which my present subject belongs, the *Amphibia*, namely, of Linnæus.

Although therefore the species I am now about to describe must be considered as belonging to the family of *Iguanidæ*, a

natural and most important group amongst the Saurian reptiles, its structure is such as to demand for it a more distinct place, than that of a mere species of the typical genus; and this will be readily conceded when the structure of the head is particularly remarked, which differs so totally from that of any other individual of the family, as to point out some important deviation in its food.

Familia. IGUANIDÆ. Mihi,

Genus. AMBLYRHYNCHUS.

Char. Gen.

Caput *breve, truncatum, suprâ tuberculatum.*

Gula *edentula.*

Cervix, dorsum *atque cauda, denticulato-cristatæ.*

Digiti *simplices.*

Head short, truncated, tuberculated above.

Throat without spines.

Neck, back, and tail with a spiny crest.

Toes simple.

AMBLYRHYNCHUS *cristatus.*

Habitat in Mexico.

Mus. nostr.

Icon. Tab. Supp. XII.

Sent from Mexico by Mr. Bullock, junior.

DESCRIPTION.

The head is very short and truncated. It is covered above with large, subacute, and prominent tubercles, somewhat symmetrically arranged, of which those just anterior to the vertex are the longest. The vertical scale is depressed and flat, surrounded by a circle of small tubercles. The muzzle is rounded, and so obtuse that the outline of the whole head in front, from ear to ear, forms little more than a semicircle, and is about as high as it is long and wide. The teeth are numerous, and instead of being minutely serrated at the edges as in the true

Iguanas, they are distinctly trilobate.* The nostrils which are oval and somewhat projecting, are placed immediately in front, about half an inch above the mouth. The eyes are situated about the same distance behind the nostrils. The ears are small, and the *membrana tympani*, as in the rest of the family, quite superficial. The throat does not appear to have any considerable pouch, but my specimen is so badly stuffed that it is impossible to ascertain the exact natural size and figure of this part. The body is covered with small scales, which are rather larger upon the back, and of a pointed conical form, so as to render the surface scabrous. Immediately behind the occiput, commences the cervical crest, consisting of a series of about twenty spines, closely arranged, of which the central ones are very long and large, but those beyond the first ten becoming suddenly smaller, and terminating almost insensibly in the commencement of the dorsal crest, which consists of similar spines; those of the anterior part being long, rounded and straight, but becoming regularly shorter, flatter, and more curved backwards, to the middle of the tail, where they gradually encrease a little in length and breadth, and then again diminish to the termination. They are about 120 in number, exclusive of the cervical, of which 80 may be considered as belonging to the back. The legs are strong and large, and the toes differ from those of any others of the family in being nearly of equal length. The claws are remarkably strong, and much hooked. There are 24 femoral pores on each side. The tail is round, except towards the extremity, where it is flattened at the sides. It is covered with scales of considerable size arranged in rings; those of the upper part being the largest.

The general aspect of the animal gives the idea of great strength. The only specimen I have seen, and which is in my collection, has become so faded that little can be said about its natural colour, except that here and there indications may be perceived of the usual mottled appearance of the *Iguanas*.

* Supp. Pl. XII. a.